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Message Text

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13
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 SMI-01 AID-05 NSF-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 IO-10

EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /097 W
---------- 040636
R 311607Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9359
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 9370

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TGEN, EGEN, AR, OAS, ECLA
SUBJ: MFM WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

REF: BA 9108 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS HELD FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH GOA ON SUBJECT WORKING GROUP STATUS. PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLICATED BY MEETINGS ON SIMILAR SUBJECTS UNDER OAS AND ECLA AUSPICES. GOA DEFINITELY WISHES AVOID REACHING A "DEAD END" IN MONTE-VIDEO MEETING AND LIKELY PROPOSE COMPROMISE POSITION BETWEEN US AND LATAM SANTIAGO POSITIONS. LEAVING SCIENCE UNDER OAS PURVIEW AND CREATION OF NEW COMMITTEE FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IS ONE POSSIBILITY. POSTPONEMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE MFM S&T DECISIONS UNTIL NEXT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS ANOTHER. IMPROVMENT OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION EXCHANGE IS OF SOME INTERST AS CONCRETE ITEM WHICH COULD BE AGREED UPON. GOA ITSELF NOT CURRENTLY WELL ORGANIZED FOR STRONG S&T PROGRAM, NOTIN GOOD POSITION MATCH STRONG FINANCIAL
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CONTRIBUTIONS OTHER LATAM COUNTRIES MIGHT MAKE. IDEAS

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REPORTED HEREIN ARE PRELIMINARY BUT LIKELY TO FLAVOR
IN SOME MEASURE GOA POSITION AT MONTEVIDEO. END SUMMARY.

2. AS FOLLOW UP TO DEMARCHE REPORTED REFTEL, S&T
CONSELOR TOOK ADVANTAGE OF CALL ON NATIONAL RESEARCH
COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CHIEF FEDERICO CROSS
JUST PRIOR LATTERS DEPARTURE ON ONE MONTH VACATION TO
INQUIRE ABOUT DEVELOPING GOA ATTITUDE. CROSS HAD READ
OUR AIDE MEMOIRE AND BOWDLER SANTIAGO STATEMENT AND HAD
SUBSEQUENTLY ATTENDED VERY RECENT GOA MEETING ON THIS
SUBJECT CHAIRED BY AMB BECKMANN.

3. CROSS POINTED OUT COMPLICATIONS OF PARALLEL CONSI-
DERATIONS OF SIMILAR TOPICS IN DIFFERENT FORA. HE CITED
SPECIFICALLY (A) OAS SCIENCE & EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING
IN MEXICO BETWEEN BEGINNING JAN 27; (B) CEPAL (ECLA) MEETING IN
MEXICO TWO WEEKS AGO. FOR OAS MEETING, ARGENTINA APPARENTLY
AVOIDED OAS CALL FOR DECISION WITH REGARD TO MFM S&T BY
DEC 13 BY POINTING TO DELAYS IN MFM WORKING GROUP
ACTIVITIES. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT CEPAL MEETING RECOMMENDED
CREATION OF A NEW EXPERTS COMMITTEE AND A NEW FUND AND
SECRETARIAT FOR LATAM S&T WITHIN CEPAL. HE ALSO UNDER-
STANDS THAT UNESCO APPROVED CEPAL INITIATIVE AND OFFERED
TO PARTICIPATE. CEPAL MEETING ALOS, ACCORDING TO
CROSS, AGREED ON 21 POINTS OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES
APPLIED TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER BETWEEN DC'S AND LDC'S.
(COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS SEEN NO REPORTING ON CEPAL
MEETING AND IS UNAWARE IF US WAS REPRESENTED IN SOME
CAPACITY. IF CROSS DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS ACCURATE,
HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THESE RESULTS MUST BE TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT FOR MONTEVIDEO WG MEETING).

4. WITH RESPECT TO MFM MONTEVIDEO S&T WG, GOA DEFINITELY
WANTS TO AVOID A "DEAD END". AND WISHES TO KEEP DIALOG
GOING. THUS IT APPERAS LIKELY THAT ARGENTINA WILL COME
TO MONTEVIDEO WITH A PROPOSED POSITION PAPER WHICH
ATTEMPTS TO COMPROMISE BETWEEN US POSITION AND THAT
REACHED BY LATAM REPS AT SANTIAGO.

5. CROSS AT LEAST, AND PROBABLY TO OTHERS, FUTURE OF
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OAS IS KEY AND INSEPARABLE FACTOR IN DECIDING ON FUTURE OF
INTERAMERICAN S&T. WHILE HE AGREES WITH MUCH OF BOWDLER
SANTIAGO STATEMENT, HE DOES NOT AGREE THAT
FUNDING THINKING MUST NECESSARILY FOLLOW DEVELOPMENT OF
PROJECTS. HE POINTS OUT THT WITHOUT SOME GENERAL IDEA
OF FUNDING, IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL PROJECTS.
THIS ALSO RELATED TO OAS (AND TO OAS FUNDING FORMULA).
IF IT CORRECT THAT VENEZUELA PREPARED PROVIDE $10 MILLION

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AND MEXICO ALSO INCLINED THIS WAY (REFTEL) THEN
(AT 2 TO 1 OAS FORMULA), DOUBLE THESE AMOUNTS BY US
WOULD LEAD TO SIZEABLE SUMS. (THIS WOULD BE MAJOR
PROBLEM FOR ARGENTINA, HOWEVER AS GOA IN NO POSITION TO
MATCH VENEZUELAN FIGURE, ALTHOUGH POLITICALLY IT
MAY WISH TO DO SO). ANOTHER IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CROSS'
VIEW, IS IDENTITY OF NEW OAS SCIENTIFIC DEPT HEAD,
WHICH IN TURN SHOULD AWAIT SELECTION OF NEW OAS
SECGEN TO ASSURE COMPATIBILITY.

6. THUS ONE POSSIBILITY GOA APPARENTLY CONSIDERING IS
TO SUGGEST POSTPONEMENT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER OF SUBSTANTIVE
MFM S&T DECISIONS TO NEXT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ANOTHER
COMPROMISE POSSIBILITY IS TO SUGGEST SEPARATION OF SICNECE
FROM TECHNOLGOY TRANSFER (TT) CONSIDERATIONS. SCIENCE
MIGHT REMAIN IN OAS REGIONAL PROGRAM CONTEXT,WITH
INCREASED BUDGET FOR EXISTING PROJECTS. TT WOULD BECOME
PROVINCE OF NEW AND SEPARATE COMMITTEE.

7. IN SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION FIELD, CROSS POINTED TO
SMITHSONIAN SCIENCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE AS KIND OF SERVICE
WHICH COULD BE VERY USEFUL TO LATAM. HE ALSO CITED FAVORABLE
EXPERIENCE WITH CONICET TELEX LINK WITH US LIBRARIES
LAUNCHED SOME YEARS AGO WITH COOPERATION OF NAS.

8. CROSS ALSO POINTED TO POSSIBILITIES FOR MORE BILATERAL
COOPERATION, AND S&T COUNSELOR ADMITTED THERE MUCH TO BE
SAID FOR THIS AVENUE.

9. ARGENTINAS OWN S&T EFFORTS CURRENTLY SUFFERING BY
VACANCY IN POSITION OF S&T SECRETARY ALONG WITH REPORTED
RATHER FIRM POSTIONS AGAINST UNESCO AND OAS S&T
PROJECTS AMONG RESPONSIBLE HIGH OFFICIALS IN EDUCATION
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& CULTURE MINISTERY.

10. COMMENT: WHILE CROSS' VIEWS WILL NOT NECESSARILY
PREVAIL COMPLETELY IN ARGENTINE POSITION, WE BELIVE THE
ABOVE IDEAS WILL PLAY IMPOTANT ROLE AND MAY INDEED
PROVIDE SEED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SOMEKIND OF COMPROMISE
AT MONTEVIDEO.
HILL

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